



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,853	07/28/2003	Michael J. Simons	84108JLT	5816
7590	09/07/2004		EXAMINER	
Paul A. Leipold Patent Legal Staff Eastman Kodak Company 343 State Street Rochester, NY 14650-2201			GILLIAM, BARBARA LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1752	
DATE MAILED: 09/07/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/628,853	SIMONS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Barbara L. Gilliam	1752

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/2003 & 12/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
 - a. The language of claim 5 is indefinite. It appears an attempt at "Markush" language was made, however, it is not a proper alternative expression. One acceptable form of alternative expression, which is commonly referred to as a Markush group, recites members as being "selected from the group consisting of A, B and C." See *Ex parte Markush*, 1925 C.D. 126 (Comm'r Pat. 1925). See MPEP 2173.05(h). No punctuation is present in Claim 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 4, 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Loccufier et al. (EP 1 157 828 A1).

a. The method taught by Loccufier et al. anticipates the present method.

Specifically, the method of Loccufier et al. is a method for preparing a lithographic printing plate by means of ink jet wherein ink jet printing droplets of a fluid is dispensed information-wise onto a surface of a lithographic receiver and the ink jet fluid comprises an oleophilizing compound containing a 1,3-dicarbonyl group in its chemical formula (abstract; [0031]). The oleophilizing agent is present in the ink in an amount from 0.01 to 6 % by weight ([0037]) and a preferred oleophilizing agent, compound I-12, meets the present limitations for the same (Table 1, page 7). The ink jet fluid has a surface tension in the range from 20 to 60, preferably from 30 to 50 dynes/cm ([0042]). The ink is applied to a support (lithographic receiver) and may be any support suitable for printing plates including metallic and polymeric sheets and foils ([0046]-[0051]).

6. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simmons (US 2004/0020388 A1).

a. The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art

under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

b. The method taught by Simmons comprises forming an oleophilic image on a substrate for a printing plate comprising a support having at least one hydrophilic layer on its surface, the oleophilic image being formed by inkjet printing an aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion of an anionic oleophilising agent on the surface of the support and drying the applied solution or dispersion. As in the present application, upon drying the areas of the surface to which the solution or dispersion was applied becomes ink-accepting (abstract; claim 1). The support may be any material having suitable thickness and mechanical properties such as metallic, polymeric and paper-based supports ([0017]). The oleophilising agent may be present in the aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion in an amount from 0.02 to 5% by weight ([0038]) and the ink has a surface tension in the range from 20 to 60, preferably from 30 to 50 dynes/cm ([0041]). The oleophilising agents taught therein meet the present limitations for the same ([0061]-[0077]).

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. US 6,772,687 B2, US 6,758,140 B1, US 6,691,618 B2, US 6,662,723 B2, US 6,532,871 B1, US 6,523,886 B2, US 6,523,473 B2, US 6,523,472 B1, US 6,457,413 B1, US

6,451,413 B1 and US 6,131,514 all teach similar methods for preparing a printing plate by means of ink jet printing.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara L. Gilliam whose telephone number is 571-272-1330. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

a. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cynthia Kelly can be reached on 571-272-1526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

b. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara L. Gilliam
Barbara L. Gilliam
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1752

bg
September 2, 2004